

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 455

By Floyd

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Charlie Baker on receiving the Walt Lauter Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause to specially recognize those Tennessee athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, have brought honor and distinction to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Charlie Baker, who received the Walt Lauter Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame at its forty-fourth annual banquet, held February 23, 2009; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, Mr. Baker graduated from Charlotte Technical High School in 1944; he enlisted in the United States Navy Aircrew Program and flew in a patrol bomber for some time before receiving an assignment to Squadron VPB-106 in the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, after his discharge from the Navy, Mr. Baker continued his education, attending Mars Hill Junior College, where he played football and ran track, and Wake Forest University, from which he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1951; and

WHEREAS, he took a position with DuPont in 1951 and worked at the company's facility in Seaford, Delaware, until being transferred to Chattanooga in 1967. In 1992, he retired after forty-one years of distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, during high school and college, Charlie Baker was a track star, and when he became eligible to compete in the Senior Olympics, his interest in the sport was rekindled; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baker has participated in state Senior Olympics and Master events in every southeastern state as well as Oklahoma, Arkansas, West Virginia, and Virginia; he competed in the National Senior Olympics when it was held in Baton Rouge, San Antonio, Orlando, Pittsburgh, and Louisville; and

WHEREAS, among the hundreds of medals he has won in Senior Olympics competition and the countless records he has set for his age division in several events, some of his best performances include the 2005 National Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh and the 2007 National Senior Olympics in Louisville; and

WHEREAS, in the former, he took a bronze medal for the long jump, fifth-place ribbons for both the 200- and the 400-meter dash, and an eighth-place ribbon for the 800-meter; at Louisville, he won two gold medals, three silver medals, and a fourth-place ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Baker has served on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Senior Olympics for many years; and

WHEREAS in addition to his athletic and professional endeavors, Mr. Baker has sought to give back to his community in many important ways; he has coached Little League baseball and youth basketball; taught Sunday School at White Oak Baptist Church, where he is an active Deacon; and served on the Board of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in its early days. Mr. Baker also likes to play golf and racquetball in his scant spare time; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of industry and competition, Charlie Baker has enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of nearly fifty-eight years, Lib Watson Baker; they are the proud parents of three children, Chuck, Debby, and Marsha; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Baker serves as an example of vitality and dedication to the people of Tennessee, and he should be duly recognized for the boundless energy and remarkable talent he brings to all his chosen endeavors, athletic and otherwise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Charlie Baker on receiving the Walt Lauter Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame and wish him all the best in the many years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.